Avian flu in the country

50. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of Avian flu in the country and whether it is still entrenched in our country;

(b) whether Government has worked out some intensive action plan to control outbreaks of this menace in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Our breaks of Avian Influenza in poultry were notified in Nandurbar district of Maharashtra and Surat district of Gujarat [February, 2006] in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra and Bruhanpur district of Madhya Pradesh [March-April, 2006], in Chingmeirong in East Imphal district of Manipur [July, 2007], in 15 districts of West Bengal [January – May, 2008] and in two districts of Tripura [April, 2008]. The last incidence of Avian Influenza was notified on 16th May, 2008 in West Bengal, after which there has been no further outbreak of the disease. There has been no human case of Avian Influenza.

(b) and (c) The Government has action plan for preparedness, control and containment both for Health and Animal Husbandry sector which were put in to operation during the above mentioned outbreaks. The action plan details activities to be undertaken (i) in the preparedness stage (ii) steps to be taken in case of suspicion of outbreak among poultry (iii) containment activities for stamping out the infection in poultry once Avian Influenza is detected (iv) Surveillance of human population in the affected areas (v) management of human cases (vi) raising awareness in the community.

Quota of rationed items for Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

51. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received demands from Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh to increase quota for rationed items under PDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years a long with allocated quota; and

(c) what action Government has taken on the demands from these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The commodity-wise details of requests received and action taken thereon are as under:

Food grains: Requests have been received from Madhya Pradesh (M.P.) and Chhattisgarh for increase in Above Poverty Line (APL) allocations under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Considering the requests of these State Governments, the Government has allocated

10,656 tone of wheat to Chhattisgarh and 78,110 tons of wheat to M.P. from September 2006 to March 2008, in addition to normal allocations of foodgrains under TPDS as per allocation norms. During current year 2008-09, 70,000 tons of wheat has been allocated to Chhattisgarh and 1,00,000 tons to M.P. for the period upto December 2008 as adhoc/additional allocation.

State-wise details of allocation made under TPDS to these States during the last three years are as under:

(in thousand tons)

Year	Madhya Pradesh	Chhattisgarh
2005-06	4,264.828	1,833.432
2006-07	2,756.644	1,600.328
2007-08	1,807.026	825.416

Also, the Government has released wheat under the Open Market Sales Scheme for distribution to retail and bulk consumers for the months of September and October 2008 and October and November 2008 respectively. Thus, 50,000 tons of wheat has been released to Chhattisgarh and 100,000 tons of wheat to the State of Madhya Pradesh for retail and bulk consumers in the above States under the above scheme.

Sugar: Directorate of Sugar has not received any request from M.P. and Chhattisgarh to increase sugar quota.

The quantity of sugar allocated to M.P. and Chhattisgarh during last three years is given below:

State	Quantity allocated (in '000 tons)			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
Madhya Pradesh	156.66	155.98	155.53	468.17
Chhattisgarh	26.83	42.95	54.12	123.90

Kerosene: Allocation of PDS kerosene is made by the Government of India to the States/Union Territories (UTs) on a quarterly basis for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS). Further distribution within the States/UTs through their PDS network is the responsibility of the concerned State/UT. The scale of distribution of PDS SKO per card holder varies from State to State and is decided by the State Governments/UTs.

Government of India allocates Kerosene to the States/UTs under the Public Distribution System (PDS) on historical basis for the purpose of cooking and illumination only. In accordance with the policy adopted by the Government of India in 2000, Kerosene (SKO) allocation for distribution under the PDS was reduced every year beginning 2001-02 till 2003-04, taking into account the number of LPG connections released in each State/UT. While the initial allotment for 2004-05 was based on the criteria adopted hitherto, additional allocations were

made during the year to meet urgent emergent demand. For the years 2005-06 to 2007-08, allocations have been maintained at the level of 2004-05, including additional allocations made during that year. Allocations for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Qtrs. of 2008-09 have also been maintained at the level of 2005-06. This Ministry has not received any representations from Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh for increasing the quota of PDS SKO during the current year. Details of PDS SKO increasing the quota of PDS SKO during the current year. Details of PDS SKO allocation/upliftment for Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh during the last three years is as under:

Year	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09 3rd Quarter	
	Madhya Pradesh	Chhattis-garh	Madhya	Chhattis-garh	Madhya	Chhattis-garh	Madhya	Chhattis-garh
PDS SKO allocated	488609	146938	488609	146938	488609	146938	366456	110203
Addl. SKO allocated	408 (floods)	—	622 (floods)	—	—	—	—	—

However, in view of requests received from various State Governments for increasing the SKO allocation, the Government of India commissioned the detailed study of kerosene demand in the country, through the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in December, 2004. NCAER submitted its report in October, 2005. NCAER has *Inter-alia* recommended restricting the supply of subsidized kerosene to BPL families only.

Further, in order to formulate a long-term pricing policy, the Government had constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister to examine different aspects of pricing and taxation of petroleum products with a view to stabilizing/rationalizing their prices. The Committee submitted its report on 17.2.2006. The Committee has *Inter-alia* recommended to restrict the subsidy on kerosene to BPL families only. The Government has accepted the recommendations of Dr. Rangarajan Committee Report and has decided "in principle" that subsidy on PDS kerosene be limited to BPL families only.

Demand for increasing ration quota for States

†52. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.